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Letter dated 8 October 2001 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women

I should like to draw your attention to the outcome of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council. As mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227, the Council has continued to make efforts to strengthen its coordination and guidance roles vis-à-vis its subsidiary bodies. It is important that the policy recommendations adopted by the Council be taken into account in the work of its subsidiary bodies. I would therefore appreciate it if efforts could be made by the Commission on the Status of Women to systematically follow up the policy decisions adopted by the Council in 2001.

The list of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2001 that call for specific follow-up action by the functional commissions is attached for your reference (see annex). I wish to draw your particular attention to Council resolution 2001/27, which provides guidance for further improving the working methods of the functional commissions.

You will note, for example, that in paragraph 3 of resolution 2001/27, the Council invited the functional commissions to provide concise, action-oriented input to its annual high-level and/or coordination segments. I am pleased to inform you that a decision on the themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the substantive session of 2002 of the Council has already been taken (see Council decision 2001/299), which should facilitate the preparation of any input that the Commission on the Status of Women may wish to make.

In paragraph 5 of resolution 2001/27, the Council also encouraged its functional commissions to consider how best to ensure continuity in the work of their successive bureaux. The Council would welcome any views which the Commission on the Status of Women may have on that subject.

* E/CN.6/2002/1.

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In paragraphs 8 to 12, 15, 16 and 18 to 22 of resolution 2001/27, the Council provided a number of further recommendations on the working methods of as well as the substantive issues dealt with by the functional commissions. The Commission on the Status of Women may find of interest the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions in 2000 (E/2001/95), which provides an overview of the substantive as well as procedural aspects of the work of the functional commissions (for details on the terms of reference and working methods of the functional commissions, see E/2001/INF/3).

The Council also adopted a number of draft proposals submitted to it for action by the functional commissions, including the Commission on the Status of Women. The Council intends to devote some attention to that practice, and has requested the Secretary-General to include, in his next consolidated report, an analysis of the preparation by the functional commissions of draft proposals for action by the Council or the General Assembly, with a view to elaborating guidelines for the submission of such proposals by the functional commissions (see Council resolution 2001/27, para. 4).

I should also like to draw the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women to the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Council, entitled "The role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development", and to agreed conclusions 2001/1 of the Council, on the theme "The role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communications technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector". Although the above-mentioned declaration and conclusions are not specifically addressed to the functional commissions, their policy recommendations and recommendations for action could also usefully be integrated into the work of the functional commissions.

I should be grateful if you would bring the above-mentioned policy recommendations to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women and take the necessary action to implement them. It would be appreciated if you would communicate to the Council any specific follow-up actions taken. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters, which will further enhance the coordination of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

(*Signed*) Martin **Belinga-Eboutou**

Annex

List of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2001 that call for specific follow-up action by the functional commissions

Number of resolution decision	*Title relevant paragraph(s) of resolution decision*
2001/27	Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12B: improving the working methods of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (entire resolution)
2001/39	Genetic privacy and non-discrimination (para. 6)
2001/41	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (para. 3)
2001/299	Themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the substantive session of 2002 of the Economic and Social Council
2001/304	Confidentiality of 1503 (confidential communications) procedure
	* * *
2001/21	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits (for information)